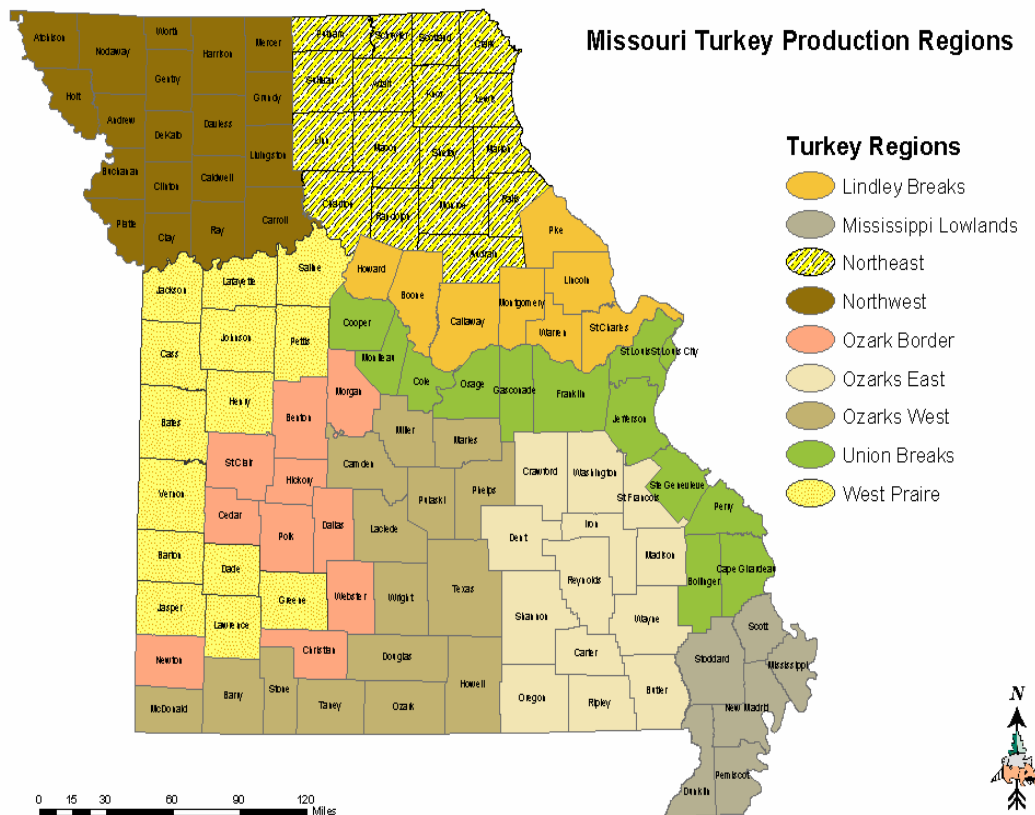


2005 BROOD SURVEY

The 2005 statewide poult to hen ratio was 1.2 poults per hen which was considerably lower than the 47 year average of 2.6 poults per hen and 37% below the previous 10-year average of 1.9 poults per hen. I could put a spin on these numbers but the bottom line is that we had the 2nd poorest recorded brood production since we began keeping records. The poorest production occurred in 1961 when only 0.8 poults were produced per hen. The difference between now and then is the number of hens available to “grow” more turkeys. In 1961 we estimate the state had 4,000 turkeys, if 60% of these were hens they would have produced 1,920 poults. If we use these same ratios in 2005 we would estimate the statewide hen numbers at 360,000 birds. Given a 1.2 poult :hen ratio the production for 2005 was 432,000 poults. So despite “poor production” we produced a lot of birds.

Variation among turkey production regions was evident in the 2005 poult to hen ratios although all regions were at or below their previous 5-year average (2000-20005). The poor production was likely the result of wet weather during the last week of May and early June when most poults are hatching. Cool, wet weather can chill poults and tends to reduce insect availability – an important food source for poults. In reviewing the brood survey cards it was apparent that there was localized excellent production in some areas.



Lindley Breaks	1.2
Mississippi Lowlands	1.3
Northeast	1.4
Northwest	1.0
Ozark Border	1.3

Ozarks East	1.4
Ozarks West	1.1
Union Breaks	1.3
West Prairie	1.2

Poult:hen ratios for Missouri turkey production regions, 2005